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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOBEL BIOCARE AB [SE/SE]; P.O. Box 5190, S-402 26 Goteborg

(72) Inventors; and
 (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BÄCK, Tomas [SE/SE];
 Krokslätts Parkgata 13, S-431 68 Mölndal (SE). CARLSSON, Lennart [SE/SE]; Matildebergsgatan 36, S-431 38 Mölndal (SE). PETERSSON, Anders [SE/SE];

Munkebäcksgatan 32, S-416 54 Göteborg (SE).

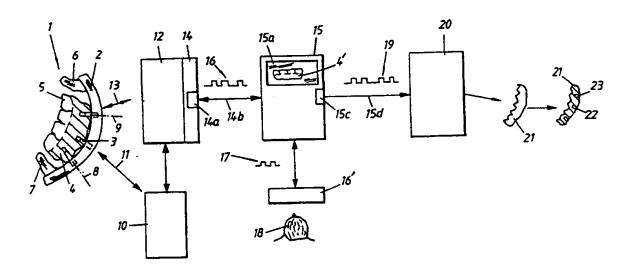
(74) Agent: OLSSON, Gunnar, Nobel Biocare AB, P.O. Box 5190, S-402 26 Göteborg (SE).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR PRODUCING ELONGATE SUPPORT ELEMENT AND PRODUCT, AND USE OF THE SUPPORT ELEMENT



(57) Abstract

A method and arrangement for producing elongate support element (4) for replacement structure (9) in jaw (2). The support element is applied to implants in the jaw with great accuracy of fit. Identification information (16) is delivered to computer equipment (15) in which supplementary information (17) is input. With the aid of the said information, the computer equipment extracts control data (19) for milling equipment (20) which mills out the support element from a blank. With the aid of the milling information (19), the milling equipment executes the support element according to the shape determined in the computer equipment. In addition, the information comprises details on the configurations of the said seats and the positioning in the support element material/blank.

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Method and arrangement for producing elongate support element and product, and use of the support element.

TECHNICAL FIELD

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The present invention relates inter alia to a method for producing elongate support element with associated seats for replacement structure in human body (jaw), via which seats the support element can be spacers on these applied to implants and/or to implants. The longitudinal axes or centre axes of the seats connect with or are parallel to the longitudinal axes or centre axes of the implants in order to satisfy set accuracy of fit requirements which can be about method starts from the stages 2/100 mm. The identification and possible modelling of the dental situation in question, supplying information, extracted from the identification and modelling, to computer equipment, operating the computer equipment to use the supplied information and further information input to the computer to simulate and determine the structure of the support element in or at the replacement structure, extracting, from the computer equipment, coordinates information or milling coordinates data used for controlling the milling of a blank in milling the milling coordinates equipment, transmitting information and milling coordinates data to the milling equipment and controlling the milling work equipment to produce the support element from the blank.

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The invention also relates to an arrangement for producing elongate support element with associated seats for replacement structure in human body/jaw, via which seats the support element can be applied to implants and/or to spacers on these implants, where the centre axes of the seats are arranged to connect with or be parallel to the centre axes of the implants so that set accuracy of fit requirements are satisfied. The arrangement comprises identification members and possibly modelling members for identification and,

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respectively, modelling of respective dental the situation. Also included is computer equipment receiving information extracted from the identification and modelling. Also included are first transmission members for transmitting the extracted information to the computer equipment, with which, on the one hand, the support element the structure of positioning in or at the replacement structure can be simulated and can be determined by means of the extracted information and further information input to the computer equipment, and, on the other hand, milling coordinates information or milling coordinates data for controlling the milling of a blank in milling equipment can be executed with the aid of-the said extracted and input information. Also included are second transmission transmitting members for milling coordinates information (data) to the milling equipment for controlling the latter to produce from the blank.

The invention also relates to a product in the form of elongate support element for replacement structure (for example, dental bridge) for the human body, where the support element is designed with seats via which the support element can be applied to implants and/or to spacers on these implants. In accordance with the above, the centre axes of the seats connect with the centre axes of the implants so that fixed accuracy of fit requirements result.

The invention also relates to the use of 30 recessing directly in the material of a blank in conjunction with the production of a dental product from the blank in milling equipment.

STATE OF THE ART

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35 The features discussed in the introduction are known per se in the production of dental products, and also to some extent in connection with dental products in the form of elongate support elements of the said type. Reference is made to, inter alia, Swedish patents

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9304042-6 and 9402351-2. It is also known per se to make recesses in dental products by means of so-called direct milling of the product material.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

TECHNICAL PROBLEM

In connection with the abovementioned methods and arrangements for producing dental products in the form of support elements, there are requirements for 10 great accuracy in the seat application. The required accuracy is, in accordance with the above, at least about 2/100 mm, and the requirements are set in order to be able to satisfy exact fitting in the jaw or equivalent. Poor fitting gives rise to stresses in the 15 dentine or equivalent and causes discomfort and pain and even collapse of the bone in question, at least in This has entailed comparatively longer term. technically complicated methods and arrangements for seat applications. The said methods include, inter 20 alia, seat production by means of electro-erosion, in which a produced model is used as electrode part. The hitherto proposed methods and arrangements can include production of modules which are welded together (by laser welding) to form the final support element. 25 Before the modules are put together, seat application can take place separately in one or more modules, for example by means of mechanical or optical measurement. However, the result of welding is a nonhomogeneous material in which the strength varies in the support 30 element. Cavities may possibly arise in the material on account of the melt zone not penetrating down deep enough. When grinding or surface-machining the support element to adapt the shape, such cavities can become exposed, which means that the exactness or fit accuracy 35 requirements cannot be satisfied. It has also been proposed to produce support parts by means of casting processes. In casting, there is the problem that the material may buckle upon cooling. The surface fineness

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in the contact seats can never be better than the grain size of the mould material. Particularly in the case of titanium casting, the molten metal can react chemically with the mould material, which can mean that outermost material layer, about 1 mm thick, is heavily oxidized or forms an alloy, cf., for example titanium casting, in the form of zirconium oxide in which the surface layer will consist of an alloy of titanium and zirconium. The strength will-vary in the support element and there may be problems in obtaining support part elements with acceptable strength. In both welding and casting, the chemical composition of the surface therefore varies. In welding, the weld seam differs from the base material, and, in casting, ground areas differ from the raw cast surface. When ceramic is then to be baked onto the surface to form the tooth replacement, the adhesion varies greatly across the surface, the result of this being that there may be difficulties in obtaining products which are durable in the long term and which are suitable for implanting in, for example, the jaw. There is therefore a need for methods and arrangements and finished support elements, and the use of methods known per se, which solve the abovementioned problems. The main object of the present invention is to provide a solution to these problems.

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SOLUTION

That which can principally be regarded as characterizing a method according to the invention is that the milling equipment, with the aid of the said milling information or milling data, in addition to executing the support element shape determined in the computer equipment from the blank, can also be used for control in order to mill out the said seats directly in or out of the blank/support element material.

The arrangement according to the invention can principally be regarded as being characterized in that the milling coordinates information or milling coordinates data is designed, in addition to executing

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the support element shape determined in the computer equipment from the blank using the milling equipment, also to be used to control the milling equipment to shape and position the said seats directly in the blank/support element material using the information likewise set in the computer equipment.

A product according to the invention can principally be regarded as being characterized in that the support element is made of homogeneous material and in that each seat wall is executed directly from the homogeneous support element material.

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In embodiments of the inventive concept for the product, each seat wall can consist of a surface ground directly in the homogeneous material. The product can also have a material strength around each seat which 15 essentially corresponds to the material strength of the rest of the support element material. In a further illustrative embodiment, each seat wall is formed directly from the support element material without compositions material layers of intermediate 20 material alterations. Each seat wall thus has the same chemical composition as the rest of the support element material.

the invention can according to use Α recessing is used in that the characterized 25 receiving the seats in the product in the form of a replacement in tooth included element support structure. The said seats must in this case have fixed accuracy of fit requirements in order to be applied to implants located in the human body and/or to spacers on 30 these implants.

In one embodiment for recessing which is used for forming a seat in the support element with milling equipment, this milling coordinates information is supplied in the form of milling coordinates data executed in database equipment and attributable to identification data on the design of the tooth replacement structure and supplementary data fed to the computer equipment. The information supplied from the

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computer equipment to the milling equipment can be integrated on condition that it contains milling data on the support part design and the seat design/the seat positions.

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ADVANTAGES

of the measures proposed above, By means support elements with very accurate seat positions can be produced at a relatively low cost. The advantages are considerable compared to casting, for example. In this case, a material independence is achieved, which means that the production can be carried out using titanium, gold or other tissue-compatible material. The seats are integrated in the material and precision is obtained in the seat positions in relation the cast support elements. The invention also advantages compared to partially affords a clear this case too, material bridges. In independence is achieved, and it is possible to avoid weld seams which impair the strength and require more comprehensive re-grinding. In the present case, very good and uniform strength can be obtained throughout the whole material, and the need for re-grinding is reduced.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

A presently proposed embodiment of the method, the arrangement, the support element and the use will be described hereinbelow with reference to the attached drawing, in which:

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of the structural parts of the arrangement, and the various manufacturing stages in the method,

Figure 2 shows, in vertical cross-section, an example of a support element, and

Figure 3 shows in vertical cross-section, and in an enlarged view compared to Figure 2, a seat formation in a support element.

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DETAILED EMBODIMENT

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In Figure 1, reference number 1 indicates dental situation in the form of a mandible 2. The dental situation is such that a replacement part in the form of a dental bridge is to be applied to implants 3 incorporated in the jaw. The designs of the implants with spacers and the like are already well known and will not be described here. In the dental situation, the dental bridge has been illustrated in its final state so as to indicate, in this application, a tooth 10 is appropriate replacement example which invention. The replacement structure or the dental bridge will, in the final state, comprise a support part 4 and, applied to this, a tooth replacement material which is symbolized 5. The by 15 replacement structure is placed between existing teeth 6 and 7 on the patient. The implants have individual inclinations on their centre axes, and the centre axes for two of the implants are indicated by 8 and 9. The dental situation 1 in question which is to be read off on commencement of the work thus includes the human jaw 2, the implants 3 and possibly also surrounding teeth 6 and 7. In connection with the production of the support element 4, modelling equipment can be used which is symbolized by 10 in the figure. The cooperation between 25 the situation and the equipment 10 is symbolized by arrows 11.

In accordance with the invention, the dental situation is to be read off using identification equipment 12 which can also be of a type known per se. The reading can be effected in various ways known per se, for example by stereophotography, scanning of the outer form, etc. The scanning of the outer form can be performed using scanning needles, optical light beams, etc. The identification function is symbolized by 13 in the figure. The identification in question leads to a conversion to electrical information signals. This conversion takes place, in the illustrative embodiment, in conversion equipment 14. The conversion equipment

also comprises first transmission members 14a by means of which information on the identified situation can be transmitted to computer equipment 15 of a type known per se in the context known per se. According to the embodiment, the transmission illustrative digitally and identification data is indicated by 16. This identification data is thus received in computer equipment 15 in a manner known per se. The computer equipment 15 also includes a terminal 16 by means of input to information is supplementary computer equipment. In the illustrative embodiment, the supplementary information is digital and has symbolized by 17 in Figure 1. The computer equipment comprises memory equipment and CPU which can receive and store, and, respectively, execute the received information 16 and 17. With the aid of the lastmentioned information or data 16 and 17, the support element 8 can be simulated on the computer screen 15a, for example. This applies also to the tooth replacement structure 9 as such. By interaction with a user 18, the simulated support part 4' can be shaped in a manner known per se for optimum construction in the tooth replacement part 9. Programs for identifying shape, positions, etc., are available on the market and can be used in connection with the illustrative embodiment.

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with the aid of the said information 16 and 17 and the simulation which has been performed, milling coordinates information can thus be executed in the computer equipment 15. Examples of milling coordinates data are shown by 19 in the figure. The said milling coordinates data are fed to machining equipment 20 of a type known per se. The said machining equipment consists of a mill which can mill from a blank 21 not only the outer shape 21 of the support part, but also the seats 22, 23 by means of which the support part 21 is to be anchored on the implants 3 and/or on spacers (not shown) on these implants. The inclinations and the positions of the said seats are produced using the said

known programs in the computer equipment and are thus part of the said milling coordinates data 19.

In Figure 2, the positions and inclinations of the seats are shown enlarged in relation to Figure 1.

In Figure 2, two of the seats have been given reference labels 22 and 23 (cf. Figure 1). The centre axes of the seats are indicated by 24 and 25, respectively. These centre axes must be adapted with great precision to the corresponding axes of inclination of the implant (cf. the centre axes 8 and 9 in Figure 1).

Figure 3 shows that equipment known per se can be used for making a seat 26 in the support part material 27. In Figure 3, a mill is indicated by 28. In addition, a grinding member is indicated by 29. The mill can thus mill out the recess 26, after which the 15 seat wall 26a can be re-ground using the member 29. The known equipment 28 for making a hole can thus be used for making the seat 26 in the case according to Figure 1. The milling equipment 20 can work in a manner known per se. In Figure 1, second transmission members are 20 shown by 15c for transmitting the information 19 to the machining equipment 20. This transmission can be done in a manner known per se and is symbolized by 15d. Thus, for example, the transmission can be done by the telephone and/or computer network, for example via the 25 international computer network, the internet. transmission between the first transmission members 14, 14a and the computer equipment can take place on a fixed connection, for example when the said equipment is integrated or set up in the same locality. However, the transmission, which has been symbolized by 14b in Figure 1, can also take place via the telephone and/or via example network, for computer international network, the internet. Alternatively, one or both transmissions can take place with the aid of 35 cassettes which are sent between the localities in question.

The invention is not limited to the embodiment shown above by way of example, but can be modified

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within the scope of the appended patent claims, and the inventive concept.

PATENT CLAIMS

- Method for producing elongate support element (21) with associated seats (22, 23) for replacement structure (9) in human body (jaw) (2), via which seats (22, 23) the support element can be applied to implants these implants), where spacers on (or to longitudinal axes (centre axes) of the seats connect with or are parallel to the longitudinal axes (centre 10 axes) of the implants in order to satisfy set accuracy of fit requirements (2/100 mm), the method comprising the stages of:
 - a) identification (13) and possible modelling (11)
- 15 of the dental situation (1) in question,
 - b) supplying information (16) extracted from stage
 - a) to computer equipment,
 - c) operating the computer equipment to use the supplied information (16) and further information (17)
- input to the computer equipment to simulate and determine the structure (4, 4') of the support element in or at the replacement structure (9),
 - d) extracting, from the computer equipment (15), milling coordinates information (data) (19) used for
- controlling the milling of a blank in milling equipment (20),
 - e) transmitting the milling coordinates information (data) (19) to the milling equipment (20),
 - f) controlling the milling equipment to produce the support element from the blank,

characterized in that

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- f) the milling equipment, with the aid of the said milling information (data), in addition to executing the support element shape determined in the computer equipment from the blank, can also be used for control in order to mill out the said seats (22, 23) directly from the blank/support element material.
- 2. Arrangement for producing elongate support element (4, 21) with associated seats for replacement

structure (9) in human body (jaw) (2), via which seats the support element can be applied to implants (or to spacers on these implants) (3), where the centre axes (24, 25) of the seats are arranged to connect with or be parallel to the centre axes (8, 9) of the implants so that set accuracy of fit requirements (2/100 mm) are arrangement comprises and where the satisfied, (12) and possibly modelling identification member member (10) for identification (13) and, respectively, modelling (11) of the respective dental situation, 10 computer equipment (15) for receiving information (16) extracted from the identification and modelling, first transmission members (14) for transmitting the extracted information to the computer equipment (15), with which, on the one hand, the structure (21) of the 15 support element and the positioning in or at . replacement structure can be simulated and can be determined by means of the extracted information and input to the information (17) equipment, and, on the other hand, milling coordinates 20 information (data) (19) for controlling the milling of a blank in milling equipment (20) can be executed with the aid of the said extracted and input information, and second transmission members (15a) are arranged for transmitting the milling coordinates information (data) 25 for controlling the milling equipment (20) latter to produce the support element from the blank, coordinates milling characterized that the in information (data) (19) is designed, in addition to executing the support element shape determined in the 30 computer equipment from the blank using the milling equipment, also to be used to control the milling equipment to shape and position the said seats (22, 23) directly in the blank/support element material (27). and

35 3. Product produced using the method and the arrangement according to Patent Claims 1 and 2, respectively, in the form of elongate support element (21) for replacement structure (9), for example in the form of a dental bridge, for the human body, where the

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support element is designed with seats (22, 23) via which the support element can be applied to implants (3) and/or to spacers on these implants, where the centre axes (24, 25) of the seats connect with the centre axes (8, 9) of the implants so that fixed accuracy of fit requirements (of at least about 2/100 mm) result, characterized in that the support element is made of homogeneous material (27) and in that each seat wall (26a) is executed directly from the homogeneous support element material (27).

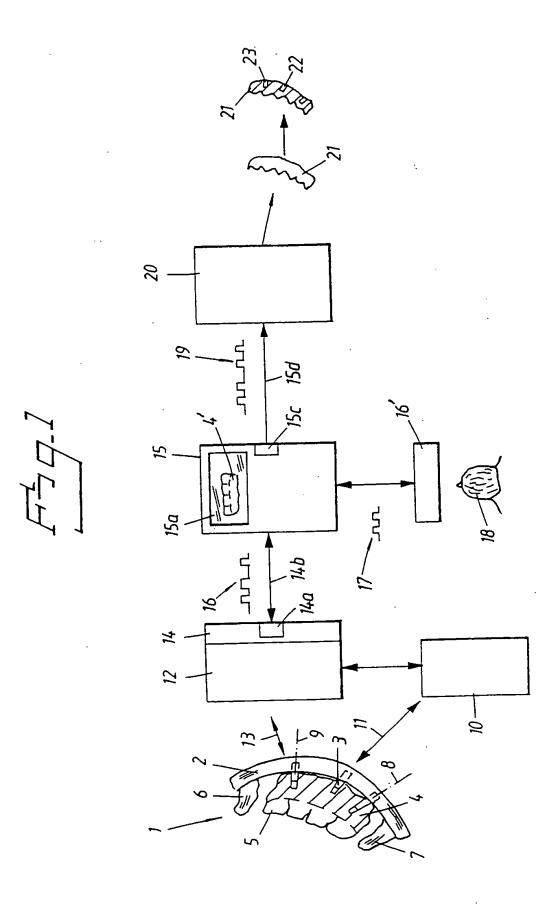
- 4. Product according to Patent Claim 3, characterized in that each seat wall consists of a surface (26a) ground directly in the homogeneous material.
- 15 5. Product according to Patent Claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the material strength around each seat has essentially the same material strength as the rest of the support element material (27).
- 6. Product according to Patent Claim 3, 4 or 5, characterized in that each seat wall (26a) is formed directly from the support element material (27) without intermediate layers of material compositions or material alterations.
- 7. Product according to any of Patent Claims 3 25 6, characterized in that each seat wall (26a) has the same chemical composition as the rest of the support element material (27).
- 8. Use of recessing (26) directly in the material (27) of a blank in conjunction with the production of a dental product from the blank in milling equipment (20), characterized in that the recessing is used for receiving the seats (22, 23) in the product in the form of a support element (4) included in tooth replacement structure (9), the seats (22, 23) of which with set accuracy of fit requirements (at least about 2/100 mm) are to be applied to implants located in the human body and/or to spacers on these implants.
 - 9. Use according to Patent Claim 8, characterized in that the recessing (26) is used for forming a seat

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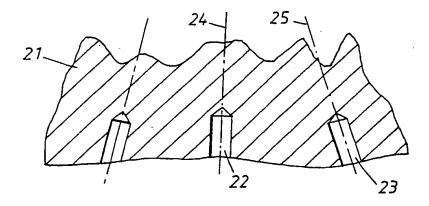
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in the support element in milling equipment (20) which is fed milling coordinates information in the form of milling coordinates data (19) executed in computer equipment (15) and attributable to identification data (16) and supplementary data (17) fed to the computer equipment (15).

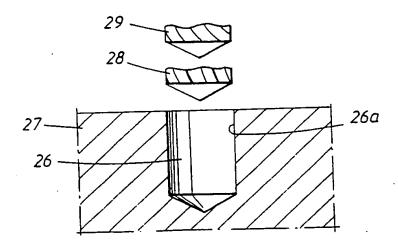
10. Use according to Patent Claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the recessing (26) is used for forming a seat in support element (21) in milling equipment (20) which is fed integrated milling data (19) on the support element design and seat design and the seat positions in the support element.











INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 98/00835

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER									
IPC6: A61C 13/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC									
R. FIELDS SEARCHED									
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by o	classification symbols)								
IPC6: A61C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the e	vient that such documents are included in	the fields scarched							
SE, DK, FI, NO classes as above Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of	of data base and, where practicable, search	n terms used)							
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•									
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT									
Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appr	opriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.							
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A WO 9601083 A1 (NOBELPHARMA AB), (18.01.96)	18 January 1996	1-10							
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

27/07/98

International application No. PCT/SE 98/00835

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